

**ARIZONA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

**State Capitol Executive Tower, Suite 502 Conference Room
1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:30 A.M.**

Commission Members Present:

Nathan Pryor
Philbert Watahomigie
Leah Larson Hubbard
Dave Castillo (phone)
Buddy Rocha (phone)
Lucinda Hughes Juan (phone)
Billie Spurlin

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Dawn Melvin
Dawn Williams (phone)
Mary Huyser
Debora Norris
Courtney Coolidge

Commission Members Absent:

Derreck Wheeler
Dan Brooks

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Keith Watkins
Michael Allison
Misty Klann

Staff Present:

Kristine FireThunder
Kelly Hedman

Members of the Public Present:

Peter Denetclaw, Freeport McMoran
JR Blackburn, AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Chief Jesse Delmar, Fort McDowell Police Department
Robert Salas, Lovitt & Touché
Karia Basta, AZ Department of Housing
Fernando Reyes, AZ Department of Homeland Security
Chief Francis Bradley Sr., Hualapai Nation Police Department
Charles Kmet, AZ Department of Emergency & Military Affairs

CALL TO ORDER: 9:38 A.M. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbard to pass items on the consent agenda (minutes of February 13, 2014 meeting). The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT: Mr. Pryor deferred discussion to report in conjunction with a later agenda item.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Director FireThunder reported there will be a memorial service for Mr. Taylor Satala on June 21st at Noon in Camp Verde. Details will be provided once they have been received. Taylor Satala served the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs (ACIA) for ten years. She welcomed our newest member, Philbert Watahomigie, Sr. Ms. FireThunder stated we are working on new appointments and are happy to consider suggestions from the board. She also welcomed contributions to the ACIA updates, which are being sent out on a weekly basis.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Presentation of the 2012 Arizona Youth Survey by JR Blackburn

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) is mandated to conduct a *Arizona Youth Survey* which is administered every other year to 8th, 10th and 12th grade students. It is based on the Communities that Care Risk and Protective Factors framework (including gang membership, substance abuse, antisocial behavior, drinking and driving, school safety issues, and exposure to violence). In summary:

- The percentage of youth reporting most substance use has decreased since 2006; although there is an increase in the usage of marijuana.
- Antisocial behaviors have declined since 2006, while nearly 16% of youth report being drunk or high at school. 9.9% report attacking another person with intention to harm them. Nearly 14% of young adults report being physically assaulted by a boyfriend or girlfriend
- 30% of youth report being bullied at school.

It is notable that Native American youth are showing a rise in gang related activity in the overall state. Mr. Blackburn stated there is a breakdown by tribe and county which would better define concerns and logistics, as opposed to the chart shown in this presentation.

Mr. Pryor asked how this information is used to develop policy and programs. Mr. Blackburn responded it has varied use statewide (including counties and school districts). It is also reported to the federal government and many other sources as needed. Mr. Blackburn reported the function of the AZJC is to analyze the survey and provide it to the policy makers. Each entity processes the information as they deem appropriate and therefore the commission is not responsible for how the survey is dictated by policy makers. Mr. Blackburn said the 2014 report may be ready in October or November in preliminary result fact finding form.

B. Update on Indian Education Summit and Future Education Initiatives by Debora Norris of the AZ Department of Education

Ms. Norris was a keynote speaker at the Indian Education Summit held at the Harrah's Ak-Chin facility for a two-day work session with 13 tribes represented. The most important factor of the event was to ensure the attendees left with a specific outcome and goals to achieve. The development of the preliminary report explained the state of Indian education which provided valuable information in advance which provided baseline data on Native American students, and how they are doing in their schools. This was a valuable resource that allowed for informed conversation with tribal leaders. Ms. Norris mentioned that the sessions were productive. She found the feedback during discussions to be useful and enlightening. A post event report will be published based on the findings.

Chief of Police for the Hualapai Nation, Mr. Francis Bradley, briefly mentioned other contributing factors that impact school performance in his keynote address at the Education Summit. He stated there are several factors in home, social, and school life which will effect how a child behaves and learns in an educational environment. Continued support from law enforcement provides children with positive reinforcement they may or may not have in their daily lives which can greatly affect their behavior towards education. Ms. FireThunder recommended Chief Bradley come back to give us his full presentation at a later commission meeting, which he agreed to.

C. Indian Country Intelligence Network (ICIN) Overview by Chief Jesse Delmar

Mr. Delmar is the Chief of Police at the Fort McDowell Police Department. The Indian Country Intelligence Network (ICIN) was created in 1994 to establish a statewide collaborative partnership between all 21 Indian Tribes to improve communication, and strengthen relationships with neighboring jurisdictions. The most recent collaborative effort was in regard to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) of 2007. The law required tribal convictions to be included on the sex offender registry. The tribes were asked to participate or have the state participate on their behalf. The State of Arizona declined to participate due to an existing statute to assess sexual offenders and, by extension, have been able to assist the tribes

in becoming SORNA compliant. ICIN also works to increase the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies and working toward establishing an information exchange model. In addition to tribal partners, ICIN membership includes federal agencies, and the AZ Counter Terrorism Information Center.

D. Planning and Prioritization Subcommittee Update by Nathan Pryor

The Arizona Town Hall contacted him to discuss the lack of tribal participation at their events. Mr. Pryor and Ms. FireThunder met with the Ms. Tara Jackson to determine if there was a mutual opportunity for partnership on the Arizona Town Hall focused on economic development. However, it would seem that the registration fee would continue to be a barrier to entry for regular attendance by tribes and the anticipated theme is not in alignment with our current goals. Mr. Pryor reminded the commission of the strategic planning session held last August to prioritize areas of concern. The number one issue seemed to focus on areas of public safety. The planning sub-committee met last week and discussed steps to emphasize public safety matters.

As for the AZ Indian Town Hall, in the past we have planned multiple day plenary sessions in a resort setting. There is a tremendous cost associated with the town hall as we need to coordinate guest speakers, facilitators, note takers and other volunteers. However, if we were to concentrate on limiting the attendees to invitation only with an intensive focus in public safety then we may have an opportunity to do something meaningful. We may be able to partner with ICIN on this if this was how the commission wanted to proceed. Ms. FireThunder mentioned that in raising funds and finding collaborative partners the commission would just need to know what the needs are so we can supplement efforts. Mr. Spurlin stated that the commission is building on what legislative day workshop. In the proposed town hall setting, it would be most effective to find one topic which may actually make an impact on tribal life, and move forward with policy remedies. For example, the workshop attendees made it clear that bootlegging was problematic for tribal community members and appears to be a challenge statewide.

Ms. Huyser asked if it was realistic to set a fall deadline to have a town hall. Ms. FireThunder responded the former format would cost around \$30,000, and it takes months of preparation. In comparison, a one-day format is manageable. If we are looking from a strategic perspective on the outcome Mr. Brooks has some great ideas. Mr. Pryor asked for objections on moving forward with a condensed town hall, there were none. Mr. Pryor noted the commission would move forward with a invitation-only public safety town hall. The planning subcommittee would begin to reach out to the criminal justice/law enforcement partners.

FUTURE MEETING: Thursday, August 14th, 2014 9:30-11:30 (Location TBD)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Presentation on the Western Regional Partnership by Amy Duffy
2. Human Trafficking Overview by ADOHS Director Gil Orrantia
3. Update on Planning and Prioritization Subcommittee
4. Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day – January 20th, 2015

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:27 A.M.